

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 30, 1943

Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company
Plymouth, Michigan

Gentlemen:

During a recent action in the Mediterranean theatre, one element of a group of Flying Fortresses was attacked by 25 to 30 enemy fighter planes. During this combat, a waist-gunner on one Fortress established a notable record by shooting down seven German planes. The planes accounted for were three Messerschmidt 109's, one Messerschmidt 110, one Focke-Wulf 190 and two unidentified fighters believed to have been Messerschmidt 109's. In making this astounding score, the gunner used up about 1200 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition. The gun he used, was Browning Machine Gun, Caliber .50, M2, Aircraft, Serial Number 455797, which was manufactured by the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company.

These facts speak for themselves. This record of performance is not only a tribute to the man behind the gun, but also to those who made the gun. Therefore, I extend my sincere congratulations to the men and women of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company for the record they too, have established. If this one gun had not withstood the ferocity of the German attack, ten of our finest young men would have gone down to a flaming death.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) L. H. CAMPBELL, JR.

Major General, Chief of Ordnance

C O P Y